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COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AND RELATED MATTERS

EXTENSION OF THE FIFTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR HAITI

Note by the Administrator

I. JUSTIFICATION

1. The fifth country programme for the Republic of Haiti (1992-1996) was approved by the Executive Board at its annual session 1996. The huge socio-economic transformation and reconstruction exercise undertaken by the Government towards the end of the programme meant that all available resources had to be directed towards achieving concrete results. Thus, the limited absorptive capacity of the Government made it impossible to proceed with regular programming in partnership with UNDP in accordance with the programming procedures newly instituted by the Executive Board. The Board therefore approved a one-year extension of the programme at the beginning of 1997, while UNDP and the Government decided to pursue regular consultations during 1997 aimed at formulating a new country cooperation framework (CCF) for approval at the end of 1997 or the beginning of 1998. The first step in this process has been the formulation of the preliminary version of the advisory note by the country office in consultation with its national and international partners.

2. The country has, however, been experiencing a political crisis since August 1997, with the day-to-day management of State affairs entrusted to the caretaker Government. The Prime Minister's announcement on the 20th of October 1997 that he was giving up his caretaker responsibilities was closely followed by the resignation of a number of other Ministers whose functions have now been combined with those of the few other Ministers who remained in their posts.

3. The report of the Secretary-General of 31 October 1997 to the Security Council on the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti identifies the following key elements of the Haitian crisis: (a) political differences around

the orientations of the social problems; (b) an electoral crisis stemming from the lack of credibility and the absence of transparency of the electoral process, which has led the Secretary-General to suspend technical assistance to the Provisionary Electoral Council. According to the report, the prevailing power vacuum and the economic and social crisis have greatly weakened the country.

4. Without anticipating or prejudging the outcome of the ongoing consultations being conducted by the Prime Minister Designate, or the implications of the recent resignation of six of the nine members of the Provisionary Electoral Council, it is clear that the present conditions are not conducive to the undertaking of a normal CCF programming exercise. It is also clear that no meaningful programming process could be launched before the formation of a new government based on a broad national consensus.

II. OBJECTIVES

5. The second one-year extension of the country programme would pursue a two-fold objective. First, it would enable an in-depth review, carried out in cooperation with the new government that will be formed, of the priority technical cooperation needs to be identified in the policy orientations emerging from the new national political consensus. Second, the extension would enable continued focus by UNDP on the essential dimensions of its partnership with Haiti, which address such priority themes as good governance, economic management, poverty eradication, environmental protection and management, and capacity-building for the formulation of better national development policies.

III. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

6. Activities carried out during the extension period would enable the United Nations system, under the coordination of the Resident Coordinator, to undertake a common appraisal of the situation in Haiti, provide concerted support to the search for national political consensus, and lay the groundwork for improved complementarity in the future through joint programming.

7. The three objectives of the fifth country programme remain valid. They are: (a) to provide support to the three major branches of the Government (Executive, Legislative and Judiciary) and to civil society in order to enable them to restructure and reorganize themselves and at the same time adopt management methods and practices that are conducive to social cohesion and consensus; (b) to create an environment that allows for better economic management and sustainable livelihoods for the most vulnerable groups of the population through improved delivery of social services; (c) to mobilize the State and the entire population to combat alarming environmental degradation, which represents a growing threat to present and future generations.

8. A number of other areas linked to Haiti's special situation status will also continue to be addressed. Under the guidance and coordination of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNDP is providing technical assistance to the new Haitian police force; for the reintegration of high-risk

social groups into the development process; for subregional integration (starting with the improvement of bilateral relations with the Dominican Republic); and for the provision of support to returning Haitian exiles. The report of the Secretary-General referred to earlier highlights the important role that UNDP can and should play in all these complex areas in conjunction with the ongoing efforts of the international community.

9. Programming activities leading to the formulation and approval of a new country cooperation framework in line with the procedures laid down by the Executive Board will be resumed as soon as possible.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

10. The Administrator recommends that the Executive Board approve the extension of the fifth country programme for Haiti for a period of one year, through December 1998.

Annex

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TARGET TABLE FOR HAITI (1997-1998)
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Source	Amount	Comments
UNDP CORE FUNDS		
Estimated IPF carry-over	6 662	
TRAC 1.1.1	6 179	Assigned immediately to country.
TRAC 1.1.2	0 to 66.7 per cent of TRAC 1.1.1	This range of percentages is presented for initial planning purposes only. The actual assignment will depend on the availability of high-quality programmes. Any increase in the range of percentages would also be subject to availability of resources.
TRAC 1.1.3	4 016	
SPPD/STS	596	
Subtotal	17 453[a]	
NON-CORE FUNDS		
Government cost-sharing	995	
Sustainable development funds		
Third-party cost-sharing	2 300	
Funds, trust funds and other UNCDF	6 485	
Subtotal	9 780	
GRAND TOTAL	27 233[a]	

[a] Not inclusive of TRAC 1.1.2, which is allocated regionally for subsequent country application.

Abbreviations: IPF = indicative planning figure; SPPD = support for policy and programme development; STS = support for technical services; TRAC = target for resource assignment from the core; UNCDF = United Nations Capital Development Fund.